

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0270
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

S E C R E T BONN 12955

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: DRAFT AHG REPORT ON DATA DISCUSSION

REF: STATE 176170 DTG 122301Z JUL 78

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH AND FONOFF MBFR DIRECTOR RUECKRIEGEL, WE MADE THE POINTS IN REFTEL TO RUECKRIEGEL'S DEPUTY HOLICK. HOLICK OFFERED THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY VIEWS.
2. THE FRG WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY WITH POSTPONING A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE DATA DISCUSSION. THE GERMANS BASICALLY AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT "INITIATE A NEW DATA STRUCTURE" INDEPENDENTLY OF A RESPONSE TO THE EASTERN COUNTER-PROPOSAL.
3. THE FRG, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE EAST IS WORRIED ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF ITS DATA. IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF
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SUCH A POSTPONEMENT RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF THE EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF EASTERN DATA.

4. HE SUGGESTED ONE WAY TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO INTRODUCE SOME PORTION OF THE RED DATA--FOR EXAMPLE, THE WESTERN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF SOVIET DIVISIONS IN THE AREA--INTO THE DATA DISCUSSION. IN ANY CASE, THERE

WAS PROBABLY LITTLE MORE TO BE GAINED VIA THE CURRENT PROCESS OF DATA CLARIFICATION. SOME SMALL ADDITION TO THE GUIDANCE WOULD HELP KEEP UP THE PRESSURE WHILE THE WEST PREPARED ITS RESPONSE TO THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL.

5. FROM HOLICK'S PRESENTATION, WE DO NOT EXPECT THE FRG TO TAKE THE LEAD IN HELPING TURN OFF ANY PROPOSALS FOR REORIENTING THE DATA DISCUSSION. THEY WOULD, HOWEVER, SUPPORT EFFORTS TO POSTPONE ANY RADICAL SURGERY. THE GERMANS EXPECT THIS ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE BRUSSELS, WHERE THEY EXPECT THE UK MAY BRING IT UP.

6. ALTHOUGH HE DESCRIBED THESE AS PRELIMINARY VIEWS, HOLICK OFFERED THEM VERY FREELY AND EASILY. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF HIS OPINIONS DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE OF HIS SUPERIORS.
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